



State of Utah

Department of
Natural Resources

Division of
Oil, Gas & Mining

ROBERT L. MORGAN
Executive Director

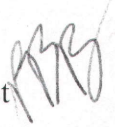
LOWELL P. BRAXTON
Division Director

OLENE S. WALKER
Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE
Lieutenant Governor

March 4, 2004

TO: File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Basin Perlite, Pearl Queen Mine, M/001/027, Millard County, Utah

Date of Inspection: February 19, 2004
Time of Inspection: About 11:10 to 11:30 a.m.
Conditions: Cloudy, 30's, light snow, several inches of snow over most of the area, up to two feet in some areas
Participants: Tim Hall (Basin Perlite) and Paul Baker, (DOGM)

Purpose of Inspection:

A map submitted recently by the operator indicated mining operations were not being conducted in the sequence shown in the plan. The Division had been previously informed of this by Ed Ginouves of the Cedar City BLM. The purpose of the inspection was to ensure soil was being salvaged and to gather information to confirm that the bond would still be adequate for reclamation.

Observations:

We looked at the area of the Schoo Pit where the operator has been placing waste material. The plan was that the operator would push soil *up* the drainage before bringing in the waste, but the operator pushed soil down the drainage instead. Photo 1 is a view from the top of the waste down the canyon toward the soil stockpile, and Photo 2 is looking up the drainage.

Although not the subject of the inspection, we looked briefly at other areas of the Schoo Pit. To the north of the waste disposal area is another berm of soil from the mine itself (Photo 3). The pit (Photo 4) is substantially larger than I remember from last summer.

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Conclusions and Recommendations:

Mr. Hall said he is planning to have the soil hauled from its current location below the waste and placed on top of the waste so that, during reclamation, it will be possible to push the soil over the waste. This should be done this coming summer. Once this happens, the operation will be more like it was planned.

The reason for pushing soil down rather than up was apparently because of a steep spot just above where the waste was put. Pushing the soil up over this steep area would apparently have been very difficult, but with the waste now in place, it should be possible to bring the soil to a level from which it can be easily pushed.

Based on this information about how the operation was changed, the Division needs to evaluate whether the existing bond is adequate. The change in conditions should be temporary.

In the future, Mr. Hall said it should be possible to push the soil uphill as shown in the plan.

PBB:jb

cc: Tim Hall, Basin Perlite
Ed Ginouves, Cedar City BLM

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ATTACHMENT

Photographs

M/001/027, Pearl Queen Mine, Basin Perlite

Inspection Dated: February 19, 2004; Report Dated: March 4, 2004



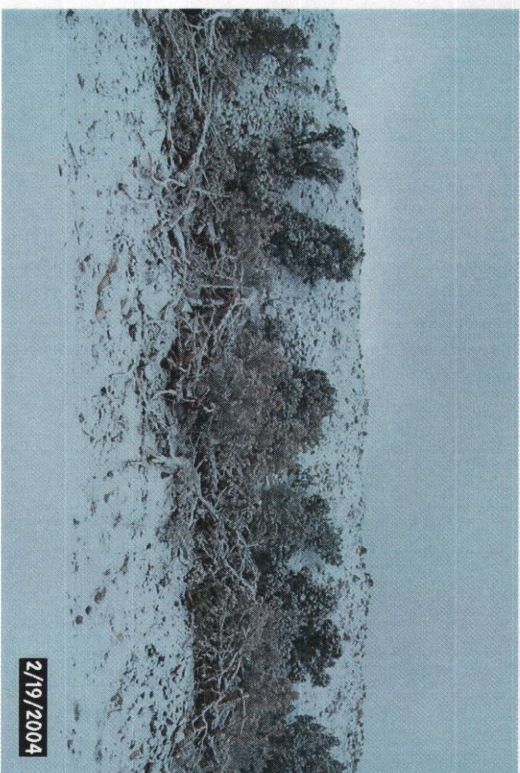
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Photo 1. Looking downhill from the top of the waste toward the soil that was salvaged from the waste disposal area.



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Photo 2. Looking uphill from the top of the waste.



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Photo 3. Soil stockpile north of the waste disposal area.



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Photo 4. A portion of the Schoo Pit.